

REMARKS

Claims 11-26 are now present in this application.

The specification and abstract have been amended, claims 1-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11-26 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Saito, U.S. Patent 6,573,738. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 6/4 and 7/4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Yamashita et al., U.S. Patent 6,339,321. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Nemoto et al., U.S. Patent 6,066,822. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5/4, 8/4, 9/8/4 and 10/8/4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Saito and Yamashita et al., in view of Nemoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Nemoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention provides for an electronic device testing apparatus. The Examiner has utilized the patent to Saito in the rejection of the claims. The Examiner has alleged that an electronic device conveying medium 304, 404 is shown in the Saito reference. Electronic devices are not loaded on a strip format.

Also, the Examiner has alleged that elements 205, 302, and 402 of Saito correspond to the moving means. However, it is not the case that Saito discloses the moving means of the present invention.

In the Saito reference, numerals 304,404 do not correspond to the strip format of the present invention as noted above. The numeral [304] in Saito is the X-Y conveyor for reloading the DUTs from the customer tray KST to the test tray TST (as discussed in column 4, lines 30-36 of Saito). Also, numeral 404 in Saito is the X-Y conveyor for reloading the post-test ICs from the test tray TST to the customer tray KST (as discussed in column 7, lines 38-43 of Saito).

The “strip format” of the present invention is a medium on which the electronic devices prior to being molded are loaded and the “strip format” is conveyed by a moving means so that the electronic devices do not straggle. This is discussed on page 3, lines 9 through page 4, line 14 of the specification and shown in Fig. 24 of the present invention, for example. As discussed, when conducting tests on an arrangement of the electronic devices to be tested 20 on the electronic devices conveying medium 10.

“Strip format” corresponds to the customer tray KST on the test tray TST in the Saito patent. By this way, there are differences in the point whether the electronic devices are molded or not. The electronic devices are reloaded between the KST and the TST in the Saito patent, on the other hand, the electronic devices are not reloaded from “the strip format” and the electronic devices are loaded on “the strip format” at all times in the apparatus of the present invention.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, the “electronic device conveying medium” has been changed “the strip format” in the foregoing claims. Also, a limitation has been added that the electronic devices loaded on the strip format are not molded at least and the electronic devices are not reloaded from the strip format in the present invention.

In addition, it was noted above that the moving means in Saito is different from that of the present invention. Numerals 205 in Saito is a tray transfer arm for conveying the customer

tray KST from the IC magazine 200 to the loader section 300 (note column 4, lines 27-30). Numeral 302 in Saito is a movable arm of the X-Y conveyor 304 for reloading the DUTs from the customer tray KST to the test tray TST (note column 4, lines 37-45). Numeral 402 in Saito is a movable arm of the X-Y conveyor 404 for reloading the post-test ICs from the test tray TST to the customer tray KST (note column 7, lines 38-43).

The moving means in the present invention is a means for gripping the strip format, conveying the strip format to the contact portions, and pressing the electronic devices against the contact on the test head. In Saito, the means for pressing the electronic devices against the contact portion of the test head is a Z-axial device which is not shown (note column 6, lines 30-36). Therefore, numeral 205, 302 and 402 in Saito do not correspond to the “moving means” of the present application.

The claims of “the strip format” and of “the wafer” have been separated, because a strip format is something on which the electronic devices are loaded and a wafer is something on which the electronic devices are formed. Thus, claims 11-18 are directed to the strip format, while claims 19-26 are directed to the wafer. Nonetheless, as has been explained above, these independent claims 11 and 19, as well as their dependent claims, should define an arrangement which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the Saito patent.

The secondary references to Yamashita and Nemoto et al. fail to overcome the deficiencies of the Saito reference. As such, the 35 USC 102(e) and 103 rejections should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

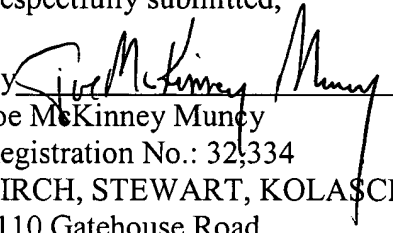
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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